

INFANTRY NEWS



THE COMMUNICATIONS/AURAL-Protective System (CAPS), when worn with the PASGT (personnel armor system for ground troops) helmet, will provide a soldier with hearing protection, ballistic protection, and a mounted communications capability that will contribute to the operational effectiveness of the mechanized infantry force.

No single existing head-mounted communications system gives a soldier access to the combat vehicle radio and intercom system, maximum noise attenuation within the space of the PASGT, and maximum ballistic protection. The helmets currently in use deny dismounted soldiers the normal hearing that is essential for command, control, and target acquisition.

The CAPS weighs less than 20 ounces; can be detached from the PASGT helmet in five seconds; can be disconnected quickly in an emergency; is compatible with vehicle radio/intercom systems—AN/VRC-12 series, SINCGARS, AN/VIC-1—and also with the new vehicle intercom system (VIS) that is to be fielded in Bradley fighting vehicle (BFV) units in late 1993. The VIS will provide up to ten listen-and-talk or listen-only stations for crew members and passengers.

The CAPS will be issued as part of the components of end items (COEI) such as the Bradley and M113 families of vehicles in the mechanized infantry. Bradley passengers and selected M113



passengers will use the CAPS. Vehicle crew members, since they normally stay with the vehicle, will continue to use the combat vehicle commander (CVC) helmet.

Six hundred CAPS were tested in late-1991 under the soldier enhancement program with favorable results. The passengers liked being kept

informed of the external situation and being able to respond to orders before they dismounted.

CAPS is scheduled for fielding in late FY 1994. It will be an interim system until technology can produce the all-purpose enhanced integrated soldier system.

A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for family members of active-duty military personnel is being offered by the USO (United Services Organization). To be eligible to apply, family members (including spouses) must have graduated from high school

within the past four years.

The 25 \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to college-bound students on the basis of their scholastic records, test scores, and extracurricular activities. Applicants must submit narratives outlining their activities, particularly those

that highlight leadership, citizenship, teamwork, and dedication.

The USO offers these scholarships in recognition of the special hardships military families endure, and the extra effort made by the young people of these families. This is the fourth year

that scholarships are being made possible by a USO endowment.

For application forms and complete details, contact your local USO office, or write to USO World Headquarters, Budweiser/USO Scholarship Program, 601 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20004. Applications must be completed and returned by 1 March 1993, and recipients will be announced in May 1993.

THE SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT Program (SEP), initiated in FY 1990, was initially intended to provide a general impetus for increasing the combat effectiveness of infantrymen through the development of lighter, more lethal infantry weapons and improved equipment. In FY 1992 the program was expanded to include other soldiers as well.

The aim of the program has been to procure and evaluate non-developmental items or to pursue short-term development programs that can be ready for type classification in three years or less.

To date, 73 projects have been initiated. These projects consist of items and equipment in four general areas: weapons and munitions, combat clothing and individual equipment, communication and navigation aids, and rations/water and shelter. Examples of these projects include 100-round ammunition assault packs for the M249 squad automatic weapon, a semi-automatic 30mm grenade launcher, a replacement for the sleeping mat, and ration improvements (in entree variety and menu selection).

Items and equipment that have been completed under SEP include intermediate cold/wet-weather gloves, laser/ballistic eye protection, improved desert boots, lightweight flashlights, flameless MRE (meals, ready to eat) heaters, and the M4 carbine.

Other items and equipment were type-classified in FY 1992. These included a compact digging tool, an internal on-vehicle communication system for members of the BFV squad dismount element, enhanced hot weather battle dress uniform, a lighter PASGT

(personnel armor system for ground troops) helmet, and alternative materials for extreme cold weather clothing.

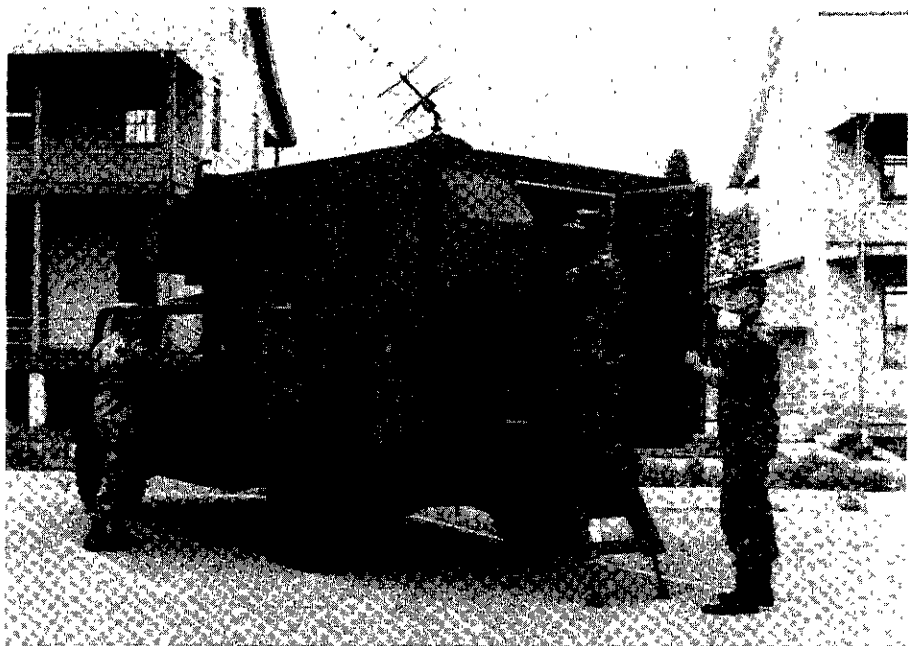
Projects that were begun in FY 1992 include the M249 lightweight tripod, a flip-up/flip-down bracket for the AN/PVS-7, an improved blank adapter for the M249, improvements to the combat vehicle commander (CVC) helmet, 5.56mm and 7.62mm armor-penetrating cartridges, and miniature binoculars.

The recommended project list for FY 1993 (depending upon the funds available) includes a collapsible butt stock for the M249, improved mechanics' coveralls, an extended range sight for the MK19, an M203 grenade launcher for the M4 carbine, a 40mm infrared illumination round, and multiple maga-

zine holders for the M16 rifle.

The Infantry School is constantly looking for good ideas, including any off-the-shelf items that may make the soldier's life easier. Recommendations for SEP proposals from commanders and soldiers in the field are highly encouraged. Participation by field commanders and soldiers increases the credibility of the program and ensures that SEP dollars will be used where they will do the most good.

Proposals should be submitted to the TRADOC System Manager-Soldier (ATSH-TS), Fort Benning, GA 31905-5405. All submissions must include a point of contact and a DSN telephone number.



A JOINT SURVEILLANCE TARGET Attack Radar System (Joint STARS) demonstration has shown that secure data can be transmitted by satellite and successfully received by a light ground station module.

The demonstration, held at Fort Huachuca, consisted of two mission scenarios: The ground station's reception of moving target indicator data while travelling both paved and off-road surfaces, and the fixed-site reception of synthetic aperture radar data. Both types of data are typical to Joint

STARS missions.

The demonstration was the first to prove the feasibility of providing current intelligence information to troops "on the move" on the battlefield or enroute to it.

The system required only off-the-shelf equipment that was already available in Army inventories. The transmission used existing satellite communications and encryption equipment, satellite antennas, and computer workstations.

THE REMOTE SENSING CHEMICAL agent alarm (RSCAAL), the world's most advanced early warning chemical agent detector, will be produced under a contract recently awarded by the Army.

This detector vastly improves warning of a chemical attack by detecting agents at distances far greater than those of any other detector. It will be used for the protection of soldiers in the field, fixed-site protection of bases, and short-halt reconnaissance from ground-based vehicles, including the "Fox" nuclear biological chemical reconnaissance system.

RSCAAL is a passive infrared device that can detect both nerve and blister agents at line-of-sight distances out to five kilometers. It uses a "spectroradiometer" to scan for the telltale infrared signatures of a wide range of chemical agents night and day, through dust, sand, and adverse weather. Troops simply turn it on and point it in the direction to be scanned; it then operates unattended, automatically and continually. If it detects an agent, it sounds an alarm and gives a



visual readout of the class of the agent and the direction from which it was detected.

Several RSCAAL prototype units were successfully deployed with U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps elements during Operation DESERT STORM.



BATTLEFIELD REALISM increased recently at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) with the use of

a Soviet-built MI-8 helicopter to insert two opposing force (OPFOR) infantry squads behind "enemy" lines during an

exercise. The helicopter, commonly known as the "HIP," has been used before in JRTC rotations for OPFOR resupply missions. But this is the first time it has been used to insert troops.

The HIP flew the OPFOR soldiers to a blue force command and control site, where they dismounted and conducted a raid to destroy equipment and gather intelligence. This replicates one of the threats the U.S. Army might face on the battlefield. The benefit is that the troops in the field get to see and hear the equipment and operate against it.

The HIP is not the first piece of Soviet equipment to be used at the JRTC, and it won't be the last. Later this year, another Soviet aircraft, the MI-24 HIND attack helicopter, will be used to increase realism and improve training during exercises.

This exercise gives U.S. rapid-deployment forces a chance to practice their skills in a realistic setting against a tough, aggressive enemy—the JRTC's OPFOR unit, the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry.

THE GENERAL SERVICES Administration's SCIT catalog now includes 600 new precision hand tools. SCIT (Standardization Control of Industry Quality Tools) is the GSA's official tool-supply source for all government agencies, including the Department of Defense.

These new products were added when flight maintenance technicians reported the need for dependable precision-torque tools for aircraft-grade fasteners.

In the Army, some of these tools will be used in maintaining ground vehicles such as the Bradley fighting vehicle and the Abrams tank, as well as fixed-wing and rotary aircraft.

